

## For His Glory, God Will Show Mercy and Blessing, and This Is Very Good News

1 Samuel 12:19-25

- As Samuel closes his farewell address, the hope of God's mercy and blessing, for his name's sake, persists for his people if they will wholly follow him. These realities are the same for us. God is merciful, for his glory, and as we grasp the depth of this, our response must be wholly following him.
- I. A recap of the chapter helps us understand the context.
  - 1) Vs. 1-5: Samuel has been faithful. 2) Vs. 6-11: God has always been faithful, in spite of their lack of trust and disobedience. 3) Vs. 12-13: They have done it again in asking for a king. 4) Vs. 14-15: By God's mercy, if Israel will repent, fear and trust God, and they and the king obey him, he will bless them. But he will be against them if they don't. 5) Vs. 16-18: God brings thunder and rain out of season to emphasize Israel's critical sin, to emphasize his power to bless, and to emphasize the judgment that will accompany unbelief and disobedience.
- II. Vs. 19 - The people's response is critical for their hope of God's blessing, and it's a picture of biblical repentance.
  - A. It's exhaustive.
    - **Vs. 19** - All the people said to Samuel...
    - Ro. 3:23. Representation.
  - B. It sees the depth of sin and the magnitude of the One sinned against.
    - **Vs. 19** - We have added to all our sins this evil, to ask for ourselves a king. The **LORD** your God (Previous verses emphasizing his faithfulness.).
    - Ro. 7:12-13 - So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond...
  - C. It sees the depth of the consequences of sin.
    - **Vs. 19** - That we may not die.
    - Re. 14:10 - He also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.
  - D. It pleads to a mediator.
    - **Vs. 19** - Pray for your servants...
    - 1 Ti. 2:5 - For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...
- III. Vs. 20-23 - God's mercy, for his glory, is promised, if they will wholly follow him, and this points to realities about the ways he always is and acts.
  - A. Vs. 20 - The message is good news. They have sinned, but they don't have to fear.
    - **Vs. 20** - And Samuel said to the people, "Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil.
    - 1 Ti. 1:15 - Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.
  - B. Vs. 20-21 - They must respond to God's mercy comprehensively.
    - 1. Vs. 20 - It involves wholly following the Lord.
      - **Vs. 20** - Yet do not turn aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart.
      - (Comprehensive. Fear. Trust. Obey. Love.). Ph. 1:21 - For to me to live...
    - 2. Vs. 21 - It also involves wholly turning from idolatry.
      - **Vs. 21** - And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty.

- Je. 2:13 - For my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.
- C. Vs. 22 - Ultimately, God's mercy, blessing, and faithfulness are because of his concern for his glory. This is good, and always true.
- **Vs. 22** - For the Lord will not forsake his people, for his great name's sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for himself.
  - Ez. 36:22 - "Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. Jn. 17:1 - "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you... Ro. 11:33-36 - Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" For from him and through him...
- D. Vs. 23 - Samuel will continue to fulfill the role of mediator and guide in righteousness. This will contrast with Saul's failure.
- **Vs. 23** - Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you, and I will instruct you in the good and the right way.
  - He. 7:25 - He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.
- IV. Vs. 24-25 - A final call to trust and obedience magnifies the significance of what's happening, and speaks to us also.
- A. Vs. 24 - The magnitude is magnified because of the repetition, and is again comprehensive.
- **Vs. 24** - Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart.
  - Vs. 14-15, 20-21.
- B. Vs. 24 - Remembering God's faithfulness is essential, and the basis for the proper response.
- **Vs. 24** - For consider what great things he has done for you.
  - Ga. 2:20 - And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave...
- C. Vs. 25 - It is also essential to understand the cost of disobedience.
- **Vs. 25** - But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king."
  - Upcoming failures. Jesus in our place. Ro. 5:21 - For our sake he made him to be sin who knew...
- Ep. 2:7-11 - So that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
  - 1 Co. 15:10 - But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.